wherein the data records of the first and the second databases are without unique identification codes.

2
~~23~~. A data processing method for synchronizing the data records of a plurality of disparate databases, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a status file containing data records reflecting the contents of data records existing in at least one of the disparate databases at the time of a prior synchronization;

comparing data records from at least one of a first and a second of the plurality of databases to corresponding data records of the status file to determine whether data records of the database have changed or been deleted since the prior synchronization or whether there are new data records since the earlier synchronization;

updating the first and second databases based on the outcome of the comparing step; and

updating the status file so that its data records reflect the contents of the data records after they have been updated,

wherein at least the data records of the first database are identified by unique identification codes.

3 1 2
~~24~~. The method of claim ~~22~~ or ~~23~~ wherein the correspondence between data records of the first and second databases is achieved by comparing key fields of the databases.

4 2
~~25~~. The method of claim ~~23~~ wherein data records of the status file are identified by the unique identification code of the first database.

5 1 2 4
~~26~~. The method of claim ~~22~~, ~~23~~, or ~~25~~ wherein the comparing step further comprises deciding whether to delete a data record from the first database based on the comparing step having determined that the corresponding record of the second database has been deleted since the earlier synchronization.

6 3
~~27~~. The method of claim ~~24~~ wherein the comparing step further comprises deciding whether to delete a data record from the first database based on the comparing step having